(c) providing DNA monomers and ATP to the replisome, whereby the target region is reproduced, and further comprising the step of introducing a second D-loop by hybridizing the duplex DNA molecule with a second oligonucleotide primer which is substantially complementary to a second initiation site, said target region lying between the first and second initiation sites.

Cancel claims 2 and 3.

Please amend claims 4 and 5 to read as follows:

4. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first oligonucleotide primer has a length of from 20 to 50 bases.

5. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first oligonucleotide primer comprises a detectable label or capture moiety.

Cancel claim 6.

Please amend claims 7-10 to read as follows:

7. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second oligonucleotide primers each have a length of from 20 to 50 bases.

8. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotide primers comprises a detectable label or capture moiety.

9. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the replication is performed in a supporting matrix.

10. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the replisome is assembled via the action of primosomal proteins, single-stranded DNA-binding protein and the DNA polymerase III holoenzyme.

Claim 11 is unchanged and reads as follows:

11. (reiterated) The method of claim 10, wherein the primosomal proteins includes a mutant PriA protein which lacks ATPase and helicase functionality.

Cancel claim 12.

Claim 13-15 are unchanged and read as follows:

13. (reiterated) The method of claim 1, wherein the replication is performed in a supporting matrix.

14. (reiterated) The method of claim 1, wherein the replisome is assembled via the action of primosomal proteins, single-strand binding protein and holoenzyme III.

15. (reiterated) The method of claim 14, wherein the primosomal proteins includes a mutant PriA protein which lacks ATPase and helicase functionality.

REMARKS

This application is a national stage application of International Application No. PCT/US00/04445.

In the International Preliminary Examination report mailed February 20, 2001, the Examiner indicated that claims 6-15 met all of the requirements of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability, i..e., the requirements of PCT Article 33 (1)-(4). This Preliminary amendment is filed to amend the specification to refer to the PCT and provisional applications from which priority is claimed, and to amend the claims to correspond to those claims which were indicated to meet all of the requirements of PCT Article 33 (1)-(4). Thus, claim 1 has been amended to correspond to the original claim 6.

The fees in this application have been paid at the reduced rate since all claims pending after this amendment satisfied the provisions of PCT Article 33 (1)-(4). Expedited